

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-31 (cancelled).

32 (new). A method of treating a patient in order to treat a neurodegenerative disorder comprising administering to that patient a therapeutically effective amount of at least one of D- $\beta$ -hydroxybutyric acid, acetoacetate, or a metabolic precursor or physiologically acceptable salt of D- $\beta$ -hydroxybutyric acid or acetoacetate, such as to elevate the patients blood levels of ketone bodies, define as the sum total of D- $\beta$ -hydroxybutyric acid and acetoacetate, to a therapeutic level effective to treat the disorder, wherein the patients blood level is elevated to from 0.3mM to 20mM wherein the disorder is memory loss associated with aging.

33 (new). A method as claimed in Claim 32 wherein the metabolic precursor is selected from the group consisting of free fatty acids and triglycerides.